



Special Edition

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A MESSAGE TO DOC STAFF FROM DIRECTOR PATRICIA L. CARUSO REGARDING FACILITY CHANGES

This budget year we are faced with one of our biggest challenges in history. With diminishing resources, we are charged with keeping our prisons and communities safe, as well as striving for methods to ensure the successful reentry of prisoners back into society.

The current fiscal situation in state government requires us to use a fresh new approach. We need to create a corrections system which produces the best possible results at the best possible price. A Pew Charitable Trusts Report recently released entitled "Public Safety, Public Spending" stated that the most successful states in the next five years will be those who employ new cost-effective strategies for managing their prison population and developing programs proven effective at reducing recidivism such as reentry programs. The Governor's Fiscal Year 2008 Budget Recommendation for the Department of Corrections moves us in this direction.

The Governor's budget recommendation includes fundamental reform to Michigan's prison system through a variety of actions to reduce the state prison population. As the MDOC begins to put in place the Governor's budget recommendations, we will experience a decline in the prison population. As the prison population reduces in size, the department will need to begin closing correctional facilities.

As the first step in implementing the Governor's plan, today we are announcing the intended closure of Southern Michigan Correctional Facility in Jackson. A number of factors are used in determining which facilities to close and when to close them. Some of these factors include the operational cost of each facility, the proximity of other facilities to absorb

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affected staff and the size, age and custody level of the facility. Over the next several months, we will take the appropriate steps to close the following housing units:

4, 5 and 6 Blocks – Southern Michigan Correctional Facility

7 Block – located in the Charles Egeler Reception and Guidance Center Annex

Effective immediately, a department-wide hiring freeze has been imposed. This will allow human resources staff to utilize employment preference plans currently on file to determine where employees will be bumped as a result of the reduction in force. Further details on this reduction in force will be coming from human resources staff. The department's goal is to minimize the impact of this reduction in force on our employees.

I have tremendous faith in all the men and women who work for our department. I know that during these difficult times, you will continue to demonstrate your outstanding teamwork and professionalism that has pulled us through challenges in the past. Each and every one of you makes this department one of the greatest correctional agencies in the country. Together, we will create a corrections department that will serve the public most effectively and move us in the direction to achieve success for many years into the future.

I wish to extend my personal thanks and appreciation for your hard work and courageous efforts in these trying times. I could not ask for a more proficient and compassionate group of individuals with which to serve. I am extremely proud to serve as your Director.

We will continue to keep you informed of changes, updates and new information through future editions of FYI.

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